

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3869

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: SA CARNEIRO STILL ON THE HUSTINGS

REF: LISBON 3591

SUMMARY: FORMER PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO WAS THE STAR
ATTRACTION AT THE PARTY'S FOURTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
MAY 21 IN LISBON. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE CONTINUING
SPLIT BETWEEN SA CARNEIRO LOYALISTS AND MODERATE SOUSA FRANCO
SUPPORTERS, THE FORMER DESCRIBED THE PARTY'S UPCOMING NATIONAL
CONGRESS AS THE HOUR OF TRUTH. SA CARNEIRO CONTINUES TO
WITHHOLD HIS FORMAL CANDIDACY TO RETURN AS PARTY LEADER AND
THE MODERATES HAVE marginally STRENGTHENED THEIR HAND
FOR THE BATTLE IN JULY. END SUMMARY.

1. A ONE MAN SHOW: THE PSD LAUNCHED ITS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS MAY 21. SA CARNERIO WAS THE ONLY PARTY
FOUNDER PRESENT. CO-FOUNDERS MAGALHAES MOTA AND
FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO ALONG WITH FORMER NATIONAL
POLITICAL COMMISSION LEADERS SOUSA FRANCO AND SERVULO
CORREIA WERE NOTICEABLY ABSENT. HARDLY A REMEMBRANCE OF
THINGS PAST, SA CARNEIRO'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS LOOKED TO THE
UPCOMING NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE
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PARTY'S MOMENT OF TRUTH. BEFORE AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD
OF SUPPORTERS, THE FORMER PSD LEADER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--THE PAD IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE A PARTY OF THE
RIGHT AND WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO REVANCHIST TENDENCIES (READ
LIRN'S KAULZA DE ARRIAGA).

--THE MEDIA AND OTHER CRITICS HAVE SOUGHT TO PERSONALIZE
THE CRISIS WITHIN THE PARTY. THE PSD, HOWEVER, DOES NOT

RELY ON INDISPENSABLE CHARAISMATIC LEADERS.

--PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM MUST
BE REBUILT ON A POLICY OF NATIONAL SALVATION
SUPPORTED BY THOSE DEDICATED TO NATIONAL AND NOT PARTY
INTERESTS.

2. SOUSA FRANCO STILL A FACTOR: ONCE AGAIN SA CARNEIRO
DECLINED TO SUBMIT HIS CANDIDACY FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP.
NEVERTHELESS, INTERIM DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MENERES PIM-
ENDEL TOLD US BEFORE THE WEEKEND FESTIVITIES THAT WHILE
THE SITUATION WITHIN THE PARTY WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN
FLUID UNTIL THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, HE EXPECTS SA
CARNEIRO--OR AT LEAST A SA CARNEIRO LOYALIST--
TO EMERGE AS PARTY LEADER. SOUSA FRANCO HAS, HOWEVER,
RETAINED SOME SUPPORT IN THE PARTY'S NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH
WAS ELECTED AT THE JANUARY CONGRESS AS A SOUSA FRANCO
SLATE. AT THE MAY 14-15 PORTALEGRE COUNCIL SESSION,
MODERATES DID MANAGE TO SQUEAK THROUGH A PROPOSAL WHICH
ALTERS THE METHOD BY WHICH DELEGATES WILL BE CHOSEN TO THE
JULY CONGRESS. PREVIOUS METHODS HAVE GIVEN TRADITIONALLY
CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS PROPORTIONALLY GREATER REPRESENTATION,
DECREASE NORTHERN CONSERVATIVE DISTRICT REPRESENTATION AND
AT PARTY CONGRESSES. THE NEW RULES WILL EXPAND SOUTHERN
AND LISBON REPRESENTATION SLIGHTLY. MODERATES ALSO TRIED
TO TIE DISTRICT DELEGATIONS TO PREDETERMINED POLICY POSITIONS
TO PREVENT SA CARNEIRO, WHO AT THIS MOMENT HOLD NO OFFICIAL
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PARTY POSITION, FROM PRESENTING ARGUMENTS OR PROPOSALS AT
THE JULY CONGRESS. THAT PROPOSAL WAS OVERWHELMINGLY
DEFEATED.

3. COMMENT:THE WRANGLING WILL CONTINUE. THE FINAL
NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONGRESS IS
SET FOR JUNE1. EVEN, HOWEVER, IF FORMER PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP LEADER AND NEW SOUSA FRANCO SUPPORTER MAGALHAES
MOTA DOES APPEAR AS RUMORED, SA CARNEIRO HAS SAID PUBLICLY AND
PIMENTEL HAS CONFIDED PRIVATLEY THAT THE ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED
ONLY AT THE CONGRESS LEVEL. THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS WERE YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SA CARNEIRO'S
PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO REGAIN FORMAL PARTY CONTROL. HE IS,
HOWEVER, SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT SOUSA FRANCO ET AL
ARE NOT WITHOUT SOME SUPPORT IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND
AMONG LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES. IT MAY NOT BE TO
SA CARNEIRO'S ADVNATAGE TO TAKE THE STEP PRECIPITATING
FORMAL PARTY SPLIT AT THIS STAGE. BOTH GROUPS HAVE THEIR
SIGHTS ON THE JULY 1. NATIONAL CONGRESS IN LISBON.
BLOOMFIELD

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